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**Sent:** 12/3/2020 7:48:09 PM  
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**Subject:** Updates and news item: SPC Multi-Material Flexible Recovery Collaborative

Dear Multi-Material Flexible Recovery Collaborative,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the start of December.

We are taking steps to advance the next two initiatives of our Collaborative (updating the recovery technologies map and charting the linkages between plastic types and acceptable feedstocks in the various recovery technologies) and I'm hopeful to get our next meeting on the calendar soon.

In the meantime, I'd like to share out some news in the MMFR and chemical recycling world that has caught my attention over the last few weeks. I hope this will keep everyone in the loop about what's moving and shaking!

More to come soon.

All the best,  
Adam

**An update on some broader, longer-wavelength topics**

### Real-world test

A good overview and progress update on the Material Recovery for the Future (MRFF) project. My biggest takeaway: there's a big challenge in creating a plastic flexible packaging stream that's free of paper when flexible plastic packaging is sorted at a MRF, and it may be necessary for end markets to have a higher tolerance for paper. Some recycled building product manufacturers have that higher tolerance.

### Fixing Plastic Collection Seen as Vital to Success of Chemical Recycling

I think this was mis-titled, as I don't see the link between collection and chemical recycling made in the body of the article. BUT, it's a worthwhile summation of the current mindset around the fit of chemical recycling in the broader landscape, with a European lens.

### **Some more specific positive developments**

#### PureCycle Technologies Completes \$250 Million Bond Raise; Begins Construction on Phase II Industrial Line in Ironton, Ohio

An important step to scaling up this purification technology for polypropylene.

#### Plastic producers tout pyrolysis achievements

Chevron Phillips Chemical scaled their pyrolysis operations to produce recycled polyethylene in the U.S., while SABIC is using pyrolysis to supply recycled polyethylene for use in the manufacture of Estee Lauder tubes in Europe, and BASF aims to use chemical outputs from pyrolyzed scrap tires in Germany to create feedstocks for new plastic products.

#### Unilever, Recycling Technologies and Neste team up on chemical recycling project

Announcement of a £3.1m grant for work aimed at understanding and increasing the suitability of pyrolysis oil for use in new plastic production in the UK.

#### Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association supports passage of advanced plastics recycling legislation

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is expected to approve legislation that would change the regulatory classification of waste facilities to manufacturing plants, which is a regulatory issue considered to hinder chemical recycling developments in many states.

#### Mars adopts use of recycled PP in pet food packaging

Mars is introducing pet food bags with recycled PP made with advanced recycling from SABIC's TruCircle line.

#### Nexus and Shell sign strategic supply agreement to scale up commercial production of chemicals from plastic waste

Shell agrees to a 60,000-tonnes-over-four-years offtake agreement with Nexus's pyrolysis facility in Atlanta.

### **And on the not-so-favorable-but-we-still-ought-to-read-it side...**

#### Advanced Recycling Company Loop Industries Called a Fraud

Some alarming accusations against one a PET depolymerization company who many originally viewed as a flagship chemical recycling company in North America.

#### Analysis exposes plastic industry's "chemical recycling" fantasy

Adjust the filter on your goggles before reading this. One of Greenpeace's foremost arguments is that chemical recycling technologies can't be considered "recycling" if their outputs are used as fuels (I don't think anyone disagrees in principle with that), and there's some questionable evidence used to back their assertions that many of the technology providers aren't as established as we'd like to believe, but this sets one end of the spectrum

and might help us find the truth that usually lies in the middle. If nothing else, this is a helpful overview of the anti-chemical-recycling sentiment out there.

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